

Obituary

W. S. HAUGHTON, M.D., M.Ch.

Professor W. S. Haughton, who died at his home in Dublin on October 12, 1951, will be missed not only within the medical profession, but also by a large collection of friends in sporting and musical circles.

William Steele Haughton was born in Dublin on September 26, 1869, the youngest son of Samuel Haughton, M.D., D.C.L.(Oxon), a Senior Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, and a distinguished mathematician, geologist, and theologian. He was nurtured in the bosom of science and medicine, and was closely associated with Dublin University all his life. His formal education was undertaken at the Abbey School, Tipperary, and Portora Royal School. His early years at Trinity College, Dublin, were devoted to the study of experimental science, for which he gained a gold medal on graduation. When he graduated in medicine in 1894, he remained for five years as chief demonstrator in anatomy with Professor D. J. Cunningham. Within a matter of weeks of Röntgen reporting his discovery of *x* rays (1895) Haughton was operating a most primitive and fearsome tube and producing films which compare well with those taken to-day. No doubt his skill as an amateur photographer was of great assistance here. He was thus the pioneer of *x* rays in Ireland, and was honoured as president of the Radiological Society of Ireland from its foundation.

Haughton shared his father's interest in "animal mechanics," and this, enhanced by his personal background of experimental science, anatomy, and radiology, made bone and joint surgery his natural goal. His publications in the *Transactions of the Academy of Medicine in Ireland* indicate his early interests: they include "Mechanical Structure of Bone demonstrated by Röntgen Stereoscopy" (1901) and "The Healing of Wounds: Aseptic versus Antiseptic Methods" (1904). At the turn of the century he visited Kocher in Berne to study his aseptic technique, and at home he came under the influence of Swan, the pioneer who founded the orthopaedic hospital for children in Merrion Street. He was appointed an honorary surgeon to Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital in 1895, but resigned to undertake similar work at Dr. Stevens's Hospital in 1899. During the 1914-18 war he held the rank of major in the R.A.M.C., and worked in close co-operation with Sir Robert Jones, chiefly at the military hospital in Blackrock. During the second world war he continued at the orthopaedic hospital for children—working without his usual assistants, who were away on war service—and he carried through the task of removing the hospital from Merrion Street to more suitable premises in Clontarf.

At work Haughton was a painstaking surgeon, giving endless attention to detail, a rigid disciplinarian in theatre and wards, and yet held in affectionate esteem by patients and staff alike. From his earliest days he kept himself fit for surgery by regular devotion to outdoor pursuits. At college he was a keen oar and a skilled yachtsman. He was steeped in the lore of nature. Wildfowling and fishing of all kinds were his constant recreations. Sportsmanship was for him a struggle against a harsh opponent—Nature—in the form

either of a rough sea or a sagacious wild animal, and the fun was to overcome Nature by planning ahead to cope with every possible emergency. He was a born teacher and gifted with a clear and emphatic exposition. He revelled in instructing both young and old, be it in the handling of a Thomas's wrench, a fishing-line, or a tiller, and the same thoroughness was given to each subject. The only pity is that he was not given to recording the results of his half-century of clinical experience in the form of scientific articles. This is an omission which perhaps his pupils may make good. Haughton was a Fellow of the British Orthopaedic Association and an honorary member of the International Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons. His work was recognized by his own university in 1923, when he was made honorary professor of orthopaedic surgery, and in 1936 he was granted the degree of M.Ch.

An ardent musician, he was possessed of a rich and powerful tenor voice. Frequently he was called upon to organize the musical programmes at college and professional functions, as, for example, during the Trinity Tercentenary Celebrations. As a lifelong friend of Dr. Marchant, the organist at St. Patrick's Cathedral, he was in close touch with all the musical activities there, and in leisure moments he was often in demand himself for a solo at medical dinners.

In 1909 he married Jane Eliza, daughter of the Very Reverend John Halahan, Dean of Ross, and a great granddaughter of Dr. John Halahan, a founder of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He is survived by his widow, a daughter, and a son.

SIR RALPH BIGNELL AINSWORTH, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.R.C.S. (Major-General, A.M.S., ret.)

Major-General Ralph Ainsworth, formerly commandant and director of studies at the Royal Army Medical College, died in London on January 27, aged 76.

Ralph Bignell Ainsworth was the second son of the late Captain W. Ainsworth, of Lancashire. He was educated at St. Paul's School and St. George's Hospital, qualifying in 1899. In the following year he was commissioned in the Royal Navy as a surgeon, but he transferred to the R.A.M.C. in 1902. He was always keenly interested in hygiene and took the D.P.H. in 1907. While in India he served as special sanitary officer to the 6th Division (Poona). He was promoted captain in 1906, major in 1914, brevet lieutenant-colonel in 1919, lieutenant-colonel in 1924, colonel in 1930, and major-general in 1932. Throughout the first world war he served in France, and in 1919 he was in Russia for a few months. Three times mentioned in dispatches, he was awarded the D.S.O. in 1916, and, by the French Government, the *Médaille des Epidémies*. In 1923 he was appointed O.B.E. After a period of service in Egypt he returned to London as professor of hygiene at the Royal Army Medical College in 1928, and two years later he was made commandant and director of studies there, a post which he retained until his retirement in 1935, when he was appointed C.B. He then became director of medical services of the Joint War Organization of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John. His work during the second world war in this position was of the highest importance, and he was knighted for his services in 1946.

Ainsworth was a delightful personality, with great charm of manner and invariable cheerfulness. He

brought to all he undertook a very high sense of duty, and he was devoted to his Corps, which he served so long and faithfully. In 1903 he married Florence Gipsy, only daughter of Imre Kiralfy, of New York. The sympathy of his many friends and admirers will go out to Lady Ainsworth and his two daughters in their great loss.

Dr. A. MACBETH, of Owston Ferry, near Doncaster, died in Glasgow on December 10, 1951. Archibald Macbeth was born in Carradale, Kintyre, Argyllshire, on October 9, 1899. He was educated at New Cumnock School, Ayrshire, and was dux of his school; after winning a scholarship he passed on to Whitehall School, Glasgow, and remained there until 1917. He then joined up as a combatant at the age of 17. He was badly gassed in France when only 17½ years old, and was demobilized in 1919, when he became a medical student at Glasgow University, where he won several medals and prizes in both clinical medicine and clinical surgery. After graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1924 he held one or two resident posts at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and then became assistant to Dr. James Craig in Glasgow. He married Dr. Craig's daughter, Eileen Gillespie, she also being a medical graduate. Some time later Dr. Macbeth bought his own practice at King's Park, Glasgow, and remained there until 1933. After selling this practice he bought his last practice at Owston Ferry, and remained there up to the time of his illness. This latter practice was a large rural one and required much hard work. His services were always given unstintingly and he was extremely popular with his patients. He was indeed a very sound general practitioner and one who always put his patients first. He was of a quiet, retiring disposition, but he was always a regular attender at meetings and lectures of the local Branch of the B.M.A. "Mac" had a very happy family life. He is survived by his widow, two daughters, and a son, to whom the deepest sympathy is extended.—W. H. B.

Dr. JOHN ISDALE GREIG, who was for 40 years in general practice in Kirkcaldy, died on January 6, aged 69. Before studying medicine at Glasgow University, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1905, he had taken the degrees of M.A. and B.Sc. After qualification he held the appointments of house-surgeon and house-physician at the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow. He came to Kirkcaldy in 1911, where he remained for the rest of his life. As well as practising there he took an important part in local medical affairs, being honorary secretary of Kirkcaldy panel committee for 36 years, president of the Fife Branch of the B.M.A. from 1928 to 1929, and chairman of the hospital management committee of the East Fife group for a short time. He was also medical superintendent of the Hunter Hospital in Kirkcaldy. His ceaseless and untiring energy in his work won him many friends among the medical profession. During the first world war he served in the R.A.M.C. and was appointed M.B.E. for service in Africa. Dr. Greig was a keen sportsman, and was at one time president both of the Raith and Abbotshall Curling Club and of the Kirkcaldy Rugby Club. He is survived by his widow and three children. His son is a physician in Stornaway, and his younger daughter is also a doctor, and in fact assisted her father latterly in his practice.

In the obituary notice of Dr. GEORGE LESTOCK THORNTON (January 12, p. 110) mention has been made of his many years of distinguished service with the Ministry of Pensions. May one who knew him through those years express in some measure the affection and respect in which he was held by all his colleagues? Thornton was of the old school, distinguished in looks, courtly in bearing, gracious in manner. To him you were always a welcome and honoured guest, a valued friend. Should it be your lot

to disagree with him, he listened attentively, considered courteously your arguments, and with benign charm acceded here and dissented there. But rarely, if ever, did anyone convince him he was not right, and, whilst duly submissive to authority, none knew better than he how and when to go his own way. And rightly so, for the guiding purposes of his life had a broad charity and vision surpassing regulations. A most lovable man, distinguished in intellect as in heart, bearing good will towards all men, meeting good fortune with modesty and ill with tranquil courage, he was one whom to meet was memorable and whose friendship was precious.—A. S.

Dr. J. A. S. PURVIS, anaesthetist to the National Temperance Hospital and Samaritan Hospital for Women, died in London on January 19, aged 53. John Allen Spottiswoode Purvis was educated at Rugby School and went into the Army via the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. During the first world war he served in France in the Royal Artillery and lost his right leg as a result of a wound received in 1918. He then took up the study of medicine, and graduated M.B., B.Ch. at Queen's University in 1925. Deciding to specialize in anaesthetics, he eventually became anaesthetist to the Samaritan Hospital for Women, the National Temperance Hospital, the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, and the Western Ophthalmic Hospital. At the time of his death he still held appointments at the first two of these hospitals. Those whose privilege it was to have his help in their work will miss his regular attendance, unless ill-health prevented, the care, skill, and good judgment which he brought to his duties, his consideration for his patients, and the feeling of support and co-operation which he gave to the surgeons. He made up for the loss of his leg by his interest in his garden, at his riverside residence, and in his car, which it was his pleasure to service. It was also his pleasure to entertain his friends on the river. His kindly, steadfast, and generous personality will be sadly missed, perhaps not least by hospital residents, to some of the less reverent of whom he was known as "Uncle John," and so-called to his face by a few. The sympathy of his many friends and colleagues goes out to his widow, Mrs. Barbara Purvis.—R. A. K.

The death occurred at Paignton on January 19 of Dr. JOHN PRINCE STALLARD in his 95th year. He was the son of Josiah and Susannah Stallard, of Worcester, and was educated at Rossall School and Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., C.M., in 1881. He proceeded M.D. in 1896. He was in general practice for many years near the centre of Manchester, and in addition held several hospital posts, including those of anaesthetist to the Victoria Dental Hospital, honorary surgeon at the Hulme Dispensary, and honorary physician to children at the Southern Hospital before and after its amalgamation with St. Mary's Hospital, where in his later years he took part in the obstetric practice. He published a number of papers on local and general anaesthesia, including one entitled "Removal of Haemorrhoids Rendered Painless by Injection of Cocaine" in this *Journal* in 1886. He retired in 1914 and went to live in the south-west of England. At the time of his death he had been a member of the British Medical Association for 70 years. He is survived by his second wife and by two sons, both doctors, one of whom has retired from practice.

The Services

Surgeon Captains M. Brown and J. H. B. Crosbie, R.N., have been appointed Honorary Physicians to the King.

Air Commodores F. E. Lipscomb and R. H. Stanbridge, O.B.E., R.A.F., have been appointed Honorary Physicians to the King in succession to Air Commodores C. T. O'Neill, O.B.E., and A. Briscoe, C.B.E., R.A.F., respectively, who have vacated the appointments on retirement from the R.A.F.